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03/22/2011 Minutes

VISION 2020 ENVIRONMENT TASK GROUP
MARCH 22, 2011 MEETING(Approved April 12, 2011)

RESERVOIR COMMITTEE
Town Hall Annex, First Floor

In attendance: Lisa Fredman, Cathy Garnett, Martine Gougault, Karsten Hartel, Jane Howard, Elizabeth Karpati, Ann LeRoy, Stephan Miller, David White.

Facilitator: David White **Minutes:** Elizabeth Karpati

Next meeting: 7:30 p.m. Tuesday, April 12, location TBA.

- The **minutes** of the February meeting were approved as presented.

Habitat Garden:

- Martine went over the planned plantings. The plan has been approved by the Con Com with some conditions including no use of chemicals; a letter detailing the conditions is coming.
- The meadow will need to be mowed once a year. Timing – fall or spring – should depend on when nesting birds will not be disturbed.
- DPW wants a proposal from us stating what work we want done so that it can determine how much it can help. Martine will write the proposal, including bringing the boulders and logs and setting them in place and removing the sod. Soil must be covered (mulched) if not planted immediately after sod is removed.
- We will need siltation barriers, to be put in place as soon as the sod is removed. Do we need a staging area for them? Biodegradable burlap bags filled with compost could be used. They would be much cheaper if bought empty and filled by volunteer labor (with compost from DPW's supply?). Martine will find out how big they are and what the total length of the barriers must be.
- The planting period would run from mid-May to mid-June. Some shrubs could be planted earlier, but there are problems with earlier Saturdays: on 4/16 both Jane and Elizabeth will be away; 4/24 is Easter weekend; 4/30 is the bikepath cleanup and 5/7 the Spy Pond Trails Day, both posing competition for volunteers. We must also adjust to the timing of when DPW can help. Perhaps some things can be planted in the fall, or the whole project could be spread over two years, either doing one side each year or planting the most noticeable areas first – the meadow and the strips along the main path.
- Martine will finalize the plant list and find out the lead times for ordering, or order plants now for later pickup. She will pay for everything and be reimbursed from the money ALT is holding for this project. She will also estimate the total volunteer hours needed.
- Volunteers can be recruited at the EcoFest on March 26. Since we won't have a timetable yet, we can't ask for commitments, just for interest. Scouts and the high school SAVE group are also possible sources for volunteers. If non-employed people volunteer, Cathy may be able to find time to work with them on a weekday.
- Cathy suggests the following sequence: (1) Heavy work by DPW. (2) Volunteers place silt barriers, install soil amendments, cover bare soil with mulch. (3) A planting day. (4) More planting days if possible.

Other business:

- Busa Farm: A community farm has been recommended as its main use, with possibly some limited housing. The decision is up to the Lexington Selectmen.
- Someone has been cutting underbrush between Busa Farm and Munroe Brook. It may be on private land owned by a Busa cousin. David will notify the Lexington Con Com.
- The bulletin board at the Res needs repairs. Jane will ask Andrew Fischer.
- The next cleanup at the Res won't be scheduled until the fall.
- EcoFest: David will set up. Stephen and Lisa will help staff the table. Displays will include a plan of the habitat garden and a sign-up sheet.